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PROCESSING ACTION

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MARKED FOR INDEXING

TO Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

INFO. Chief, WH/COG

FROM Chief of Station, Mexico City

SUBJECT PBRUMEN/The LIRING-3 Operation

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES FBI

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ONLY QUALIFIED DESK
CAN JUDGE INDEXING

MICROFILM

MICROFILMED

JUN 7 1967

DOC. MICRO. SER.

Reference: HMA 31977

1. Forwarded as Attachment One under separate cover are reports prepared by Wallace B. ROWTON on the activities of LIRING-3, dated 9, 13, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 27 May 1967. Forwarded as Attachment Two, also under separate cover, are photocopies of correspondence exchanged between LIRING-3 in Mexico City and [Paz PESPEJO] in Havana. Forwarded as Attachment Three herewith, is a pamphlet obtained by LIRING-3 which contains the text of the message allegedly sent the Tri-Continental organization by Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA.

2. There is little question that LIRING-3 must often ask himself just where his association with ROWTON is taking him and must speculate about just what ROWTON is after. There are obviously times when, left to conjectures and suppositions, LIRING-3 must feel like "quitting." Yet, the ascendancy gradually developed by ROWTON over LIRING-3 has reached the point where LIRING-3 is unwilling to go back to the drab, uninteresting life he lived before meeting ROWTON. The result of LIRING-3's "second thoughts" has up to now been a desire, in the end, to collaborate even more closely with ROWTON. ROWTON's report dated 13 May, and more particularly, LIRING-3's scribble attached to that report, give an indication of the confusion which exists in LIRING-3's mind as a result of the contacts he maintains at ROWTON's urging with the Cubans, Guatemalan rebels, and various shades of Mexican and Central American leftists.

CONTINUED . . .

Attachments:

- #1 - Reports a/s para 1 USC
- #2 - Correspondence a/s para 1 USC
- #3 - Pamphlet a/s para 1 HEREWITH

Document Number

1225-11298

for FOIA Review on FEB 1977

Distribution:

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3 ATT

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201-798301

CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

DATE

HMA-32243

13 June 1967

SECRET/NOFORN

HQS FILE NUMBER

201-798301

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downgrading and
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In addition LIRING-3, a professional artist, finds himself involved in the development of a commercial venture, an undertaking for which he is ill equipped. This ~~other~~ shortcoming requires very close guidance by ROWTON and, in turn, makes LIRING-3 even more dependant on his case officer. Thus, while LIRING-3 occasionally thinks of returning to painting and giving art lessons and develops qualms about taking money from ROWTON for what he considers to be little result, LIRING-3 keeps involving himself deeper and deeper in activities of interest to ROWTON.

3. The above does not mean that LIRING-3's activities should not be subjected to every operational control possible, on the contrary. LIRING-3's story concerning the manner in which birth certificates can be obtained in Northern Mexico to secure valid Mexican passports continues, for example, to be suspect. It now appears, on the other hand, that "GARCIA" of the Guatemalan FAR exists (LIRING-4 talked to him) and that he does not want LIRING-3 to come in contact with other Mexico residents connected with the Guatemalan guerrillas such as the alleged FAR propaganda representative at the UNAM University. LIRING-3 is convinced he can lay on a meeting with GARCIA in advance so that ROWTON can have a look at the Guatemalan. In spite of GARCIA's cautiousness, such a meeting has to take place sooner or later. The Station is ready. It also appears that for reasons as yet unclear, Mexican leftists such as Sergio VALDEZ, Raul MORENO and others are seeking LIRING-3 and appear to want something from him.

4. ROWTON's recent efforts to develop LIRING-4's potential regarding LIRING and it's staff paid off when LIRING-4 was asked to "fill in" when one of the secretaries in LIRING-9's section had to return home temporarily on sick leave. It already appears that LIRING-4, an experienced hand in LIRING-9's overt business, will be given quite a bit of responsibility in that office. It is hoped that by becoming quasi indispensable she will be asked to remain at LIRING after the return of the person for whom she is "filling in." LIRING-4, while very much in love with her husband, has a mind of her own, a great liking for ROWTON and, according to LIRING-3 himself, an intelligence much superior to his. She is also gifted with Oriental type patience. With LIRING-3's knowledge, ROWTON has started to make small payments to LIRING-4 to provide separate financial incentive and help her pay for furniture and other items she purchased on credit some time ago.

5. The sketch mentioned in the last paragraph of ROWTON's report dated 26 May was retained by this Station. ROWTON used this sketch to discuss with LIRING-4 the layout of LIRING-9's section. The statement made at the end of paragraph 4 of the report dated 27 May is in error. LIRING-9's section has two telephones. What LIRING-4 took for a third phone in the back room of that section is in reality an intercom unit.

6. Headquarters attention is called to paragraphs 3 through 5 of ROWTON's report dated 26 May. The fact that Silvia DURAN had sexual intercourse with Lee Harvey OSWALD on several occasions when the latter was in Mexico City is probably new, but adds little to the OSWALD case. The Mexican police did not report the extent of the DURAN-OSWALD relationship to this Station.

7. The result of Station file checks on VALDEZ and MORENO were indicated in the reference. Those on Marcela and Eugenia OLGUIN are being forwarded in a dispatch covering LIRING-7's activities. There are no traces on Paz ESPEJO. Silvia DURAN and Teresa FROENZA are well known to Headquarters. Felipe ROJAS Morales is an employee of the Mexico City Cuban-Mexican Cultural Institute.

for Willard C. CURTIS

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~~SECRET~~

26 May, 1967

Subject: Wallace B. Rowton Meeting with LIRING/3.

~~SECRET~~/KAPOK

1. Rowton met with LIRING/3 at the safehouse from 1800 until about 1930 on 25 May, 1967. LIRING/3 reported that as yet he had not heard from Garcia and would stand by for the next two days in the hope that Garcia would reappear at his home. LIRING/3 agreed to invite Garcia, once he did appear, to coffee or lunch at a restaurant on 29 or 30 May so that Rowton could get a look at him. LIRING/3 also reported that LIRING/4 had been working part-time, in the mornings, at the Consulate and that her rapport with the local staff was improving. Rowton suggested that it might be the right time to give LIRING/4 some compensation for her efforts. LIRING/3 agreed and promised to ask LIRING/4 to be at the safehouse at 1000 on 27 May, so that Rowton could again talk privately with her and give her the money (Rowton suggested 500 pesos, and LIRING/3 agreed that this would be adequate).

2. LIRING/3 reported that LIRING/4's resumption of contact had begun to pay off better than he had thought possible. He explained that she had found an opportunity on the afternoon of 23 May to chat with ^{OC}[Abelardo Curbelo] and had returned home with some interesting information concerning the Cuban attitude toward LIRING/3 himself. According to LIRING/3, LIRING/4 said that ^{OC}[Curbelo] told her that he was happy that she had finally come back in close contact with ^{OC}[the Consulate]. In commenting on LIRING/3, ^{OC}[Curbelo] in a more or less joking way stated that LIRING/4 must understand that the "revolution is surrounded by provocations" and that many persons on the outside, such as LIRING/3, have become innocent victims of organizations such as WOFACIT, that are constantly sending provocations against the revolution. ^{OC}[Curbelo] stressed that he did not feel that LIRING/3 fell into that category, but LIRING/4 must understand the precautions that have to be taken by the revolution. He concluded that he hoped LIRING/3 would not take offense (tomarlo a mal) and would feel free to

3. LIRING/3 then stated that he was doing his best to keep active certain contacts he had had in the past that were on the periphery of the official Cuban circle. He mentioned specifically the case of Silvia and Horacio Durán that then explained the background of his relationship with them. He related that Silvia Durán worked as receptionist at the Consulate in 1963-64 and was on duty when Lee Harvey Oswald applied for a visa. She had been recommended to the Cubans by Teresa Proenza, the Press Attaché from 1959 until 1962. LIRING/3 described Teresa Proenza as a Cuban woman aged about 52, a Lesbian, and a member of the Communist Party of Cuba, who was currently in jail in

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Cuba as the result of a conviction for espionage on behalf of WOPACT. LIRING/3 recalled that during his last visit to Havana, a friend of his in the Ministry of Education, informed him of Teresa Proenza's present situation and advised LIRING/3, in the event he was asked, he deny that he had known Teresa Proenza or had had anything to do with her. LIRING/3 continued that just the other day Silvia Durán had telephoned him to say hello and that he had visited her at her home to renew his acquaintance. (LIFEAT SAN-26(10.8) reveals that at about 1245 on 22 May, 1967, LIRING/3 telephoned 15-78-11 and asked for sra. Silvia. When (maid) informed him she not in, he asked for sr. Horacio. When same negative reply given, he asked that they be advised that LIRING/3 had called to say hello. SAN-26 (11.0) reveals an incoming call from Silvia Durán in which she asks how he obtained her number. He replies: "At the Cuban Institute". She states that she is studying at some school and at the moment is free to talk to LIRING/3. The latter replies that he would go by to visit her (Constituyentes 143, apt 3) in a few minutes.)

4. LIRING/3 continued that Silvia Durán informed him that she had first met Oswald when he applied for a visa and had gone out with him several times since she liked him from the start. She admitted that she had sexual relations with him but insisted that she had no idea of his plans. When the news of the assassination broke she stated that she was immediately taken into custody by the Mexican police and interrogated thoroughly and beaten until she admitted that she had had an affair with Oswald. She added that ever since then she had cut off all contact with the Cubans, particularly since her husband Horacio, who was badly shaken by the whole affair, went into a rage and has forbidden her to see them. She added that she felt certain that her telephone was tapped by the Mexican police, or, more probably by WOPACT, since tapping was an expensive proposition and the Mexicans wouldn't be able to afford it for so long a period.

5. Rowton counseled LIRING/3 against any further contact with the Duráns on the ground that it might put him under some sort of suspicion either in the eyes of the Mexican police or the Cubans. He pointed out that little or nothing was to be gained from such a contact.

5. LIRING/3 then produced, at Rowton's request, a sketch of the Consulate and Embassy premises, copy of which is attached. LIRING/3 commented that to his knowledge Cepeda did not have an office, at least not on the first floor. His other comments appear on the sketch as reproduced by Rowton.

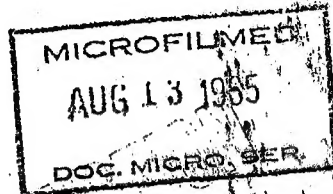
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~~SECRET~~/KAPOK

WBRouta
Wallace B. Rowton

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XAAZ-22940

5 May 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Slawson of the Presidential Commission
on 5 May concerning telephone conversation between Cuban
President Dorticos and Ambassador Armas

1. On 5 May, Mr. Whitten and Mr. Hall met with Mr. Slawson of the Commission in Mr. Whitten's office. This meeting had been requested to ask for a fresh translation of the taped conversation between Cuban President Dorticos and Ambassador Armas. Win Scott had told the Commission staff visiting Mexico City that his translators, in the rush at that time, might have misconstrued certain nuances of meaning in what was a difficult recording. In view of this, Mr. Slawson asked that a new translation be made, if possible, by a person knowledgeable of the Cuban dialect.

2. According to Mr. Slawson, only Messrs. Rankin, Willens, Coleman (?) and he presently know of the telephone taps in Mexico City. Slawson, Willens and Coleman were briefed on the taps during their visit to Mexico City.

3. In about three weeks the staff will begin presenting to the Commission evidence on the conspirational aspect of the assassination. At this time, apparently, their evidence is against the existence of a plot. They will wish to present to the Commission the Armas - Dorticos conversation. Slawson suggested the possibility that a knowledgeable CIA man could make this presentation, interpreting the conversation in the light of our study.

4. Mr. ²⁶Whitten said that we will again translate the tape, using the best available Cuban linguist, and once again study the nuances of the conversation. Any presentation to the Commission, however, would have to be referred to Messrs. Helms and Rocca for decision. According to Mr. Slawson, no member of the Commission now knows of the telephone taps in Mexico City (he did not mention Mr. Dulles).

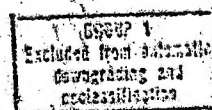
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5. Mr. ²⁶[Whitten] carefully briefed Mr. Slawson (probably rebriefed him) on the importance of these telephone taps to U.S. security and the grave damage that would be done to U.S. - Mexican relations if knowledge of their existence became public.

6. Mr. Slawson quite clearly was a bit unhappy that certain information could not be used, since the taps were the only source. OSWALD's very bad Russian was the example he used. I asked what opinion Mrs. OSWALD had of her husband's Russian. She thought that he spoke it very well.

7. Mr. Slawson asked if the retranslation of the Dorticos - Armas conversation could be made available to him by the end of next week.

8. According to Mr. Slawson, ⁽²⁰¹⁻⁷⁴⁰⁷²⁰⁾ the Commission Staff had come up with the idea that Silvia DURAN might be invited to the United States, ostensibly to be interviewed by a periodical, and then questioned by the Commission. The Chief Justice turned down the proposal at once, on the ground that she was a Communist and U.S. - Mexican relations might be damaged. This idea has been abandoned.

9. From Mr. Slawson's remarks it is evident that the preparation of the Commission's report has begun, and is in its initial stages.

10. Mr. ²⁶[Whitten] called me after the meeting to say that the work of retranslating the Dorticos-Armas conversation from the tape had started.

Thomas R. Hall

cc: C/WH/3

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ORIG: Virginia Renshaw:jz

NIT: WH/3 Reports, No INDEX

KT: 5340

DATE: 25 Nov 63

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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FILE IN CS FILE NO.

ROUTING	
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25 Nov 63 19 17z

TO: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM: ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ONF: WH 8

SFO: DDP, CI, CI/OPS, CI/IC 2, FI, SR 7, SAS 8, OS 2, VR

2

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CITE DIR

SUBJECT: SILVIA T. DURAN, MEXICAN EMPLOYEE OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY

CITY, CONTACT WITH LEE H. OSWALD.

84950
INVESTIGATION REVIEW
CONDUCTED ON 16 APR 1976
CLASSIFIED BY 012203

1. SILVIA T. DURAN, A MEXICAN CITIZEN, THE WIFE OF HORACIO DURAN, A MEXICAN DECORATOR, WAS DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEXICAN-CUBAN CULTURAL RELATIONS (IMERC) IN MEXICO CITY FROM SEPTEMBER 1962 TO JANUARY 1963. SHE IS NOW EMPLOYED AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY.

2. DURAN AND HER HUSBAND WERE ARRESTED BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES BEFORE SIX P.M., 23 NOVEMBER 1963 FOR INTERROGATION. EFFORTS WERE MADE TO KEEP THE ARREST SECRET, BUT IT WAS DOUBTED THAT IT COULD BE KEPT FROM HER FAMILY OR THE CUBAN EMBASSY FOR VERY LONG.

3. IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT DURAN WAS COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE AND GAVE WRITTEN STATEMENTS ATTESTING TO TWO VISITS BY OSWALD TO THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO GET A VISA TO TRANSIT CUBA TO GO TO THE USSR. HE WAS TOLD THAT HE MUST HAVE THE USSR VISA BEFORE THE CUBAN VISA COULD BE ARRANGED. THE SOVIETS SAID THEY HAD TO CHECK FURTHER BEFORE A VISA COULD BE ISSUED. DURAN DID NOT KNOW WHY OSWALD RETURNED TO THE U.S. WITHOUT THE VISA.

4. ESCELSIOR, MEXICAN DAILY, OF 25 NOVEMBER PUBLISHED AN ITEM DESCRIBING OSWALD'S TRIP TO MEXICO FROM 26 SEPTEMBER TO 3 OCTOBER, CROSSING THE BORDER AT

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APR 1976

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IS: Renlew:jz
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☐ NO INDEX
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PAGE TWO

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ROUTINE

INFO

CITE DIR

LAREDO. HE WENT TO THE CUBAN EMBASSY ON 27 SEPTEMBER AND TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON 28 SEPTEMBER. THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO GET A VISA TO GO TO THE USSR. THE SOURCE OF THE STORY IS NOT KNOWN. THE NEWSPAPER IMPLIED THAT IT RAN ITS OWN INVESTIGATION.

5. YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO CITY HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS.

6. THIS OFFICE HAS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DURAN: A USUALLY RELIABLE AND SENSITIVE SOURCE IN MEXICO CITY REPORTED THAT ON 26 NOVEMBER 1962 GLADYS LECHUGA, WIFE OF CARLOS LECHUGA, CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, FORMERLY CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, SAID THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED TWO LETTERS FROM HER HUSBAND IN NEW YORK. HE ASKED FOR A SEPARATION, AND SAID THAT THE PERSON IN WHOM HE IS INTERESTED IS SILVIA T. DE DURAN; THAT SHE IS "OF HIS IDEAS" AND WAS WILLING TO GO TO CUBA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, TERESA PROENZA, CULTURAL ATTACHE AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY SAID THAT DURAN HAD NEVER BEEN A MARXIST OR A COMMUNIST.

7. ANOTHER USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITH GOOD CONTACTS IN THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY REPORTED IN NOVEMBER 1962 THAT LECHUGA AND DURAN DID HAVE AN AFFAIR. THE CUBAN EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF IT, BUT EFFORTS WERE MADE TO KEEP IT FROM BECOMING KNOWN.

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3: Renshaw: jz

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PAGE 3

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CITE DIR 34950

8. CS 3/587,594, OF 18 FEBRUARY 1963, FROM A SOURCE WHOSE RELIABILITY COULD NOT BE JUDGED, REPORTED THAT LECHUCA HAD OFFERED TO MARRY DURAN, A MEXICAN MARRIED WOMAN, AFTER DIVORCING HIS WIFE, SINCE SHE WAS READY TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO CUBA.

9. THIS INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR USE ONLY, AND MAY NOT BE DISSEMINATED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THIS AGENCY.

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END OF MESSAGE

C. J. Torney
JARE ROLAN
CIULA

RELEASING OFFICER

C/WH/3

COORDINATING OFFICER'S

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201-289248

L. N. GALLERY
GWH/R

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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RIG.: L.F.BARKER

T.:
STR.: COMMO
CHRONO (DUMMY)

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 1963

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

FILE: R-8593
P-7969

DEFERRED		PRIORITY	INITIALS	DTG	NUMBER
ROUTINE	XX	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INITIALS		

IMMEDIATE DIR

INFO

CITE MEXI - 7039
NUMBER

KAPOK

1. IN JANUARY 1963 SILVIA DURAN SEEN IN TWO CARS WITH
T
TEXAS PLATES, CONVERTIBLE PLATE JF 96-75 AND WHITE VOLVO
PLATE KU 94-95. ANOTHER FORD CAR TEXAS PLATE JH 24-76 SEEN
IN FRONT OF RESIDENCE DURAN BROTHER. PLS RESOLVE.

2. ABOVE TO HOLD IN RESERVE HERE FOR POSSIBLE USE IN
CONNECTION GOM INTERROGATION DURAN.

END OF MSG

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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L.F.B.
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

W.C.C.C
RELEASING OFFICER

OUTGOING

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COS

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 1963

STR: COMMO U
CHRONO (DMMY)

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CLASSIFICATION

FILE: P-3593
Sylvia DURAN P
ECHEVARRIA P

DEFERRED	PRIORITY	INITIALS	DTG.	NUMBER
ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INITIALS	FLASH	

FLASH DIR

INFO.

CITE MEXI

7037
NUMBER

RYBAT

REF: DIR 84916

1. LIC. LUIS ECHEVARRIA INFORMED COS AT 1800 HRS MEXICO TIME THAT SYLVIA DURAN AND HER HUSBAND HAD ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED. THEY ARE PRESENTLY UNDER INTERROGATION BY GOBERNACION AUTHORITIES.

2. COS ASKED LIC. ECHEVARRIA TO TAKE ^{Measures} ~~MEASURES~~ REQUESTED REFERENCE. ECHEVARRIA PROMISED TO TRY TO KEEP ARREST SECRET.

3. ECHEVARRIA DEFINITELY PROMISED ALL INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM DURANS; SAID FIRST REPORT SHOULD BE READY BY 2000 HRS MEXICAN TIME.

3. DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP ARREST FROM HER FAMILY AND FROM CUBAN EMBASSY VERY LONG.

END OF MSG

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DATE: 23 NOV 63

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				MNS		232330Z	6687
TO FLASH MEXI				INFO		CITE DIR 24916 NUMBER	

- 1. ARREST OF SILIVA DURAN IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS MATTER WHICH COULD PREJUDICE ODYOKE FREEDOM OF ACTION ON ENTIRE QUESTION OF PERUEN RESPONSIBILITY. WITH FULL REGARD FOR MEXICAN INTERESTS, REQUEST YOU ENSURE THAT HER ARREST IS KEPT ABSOLUTELY SECRET, THAT NO INFORMATION FROM HER IS PUBLISHED OR LEAKED, THAT ALL SUCH INFO IS CABLED TO US, AND THAT FACT OF HER ARREST AND HER STATEMENTS ARE NOT SPREAD TO LEFTIST OR DISLOYAL CIRCLES IN THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.
- 2. WE ARE TRYING TO GET MORE INFO ON OSWALD FROM ODENVY AND WILL ADVISE DIRECT OR THROUGH ODENVY MEXI.

24/0020Z

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